

April 15, 1983

LB 617

SPEAKER NICHOL: All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is offered by Senator Hannibal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Is Senator Hannibal here?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hannibal would move to amend the bill by striking the Morehead-Kilgarin amendment adopted on General File earlier.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker, sorry to delay. The Kilgarin-Morehead amendment as you recall in LB 617 took the fee for a death certificate from \$5 down to \$3 per certificate. Well actually it took it from \$5 for the first copy and \$3 for multiple copies. When the original appropriation bill came out the committee had voted to have it be \$5 apiece across the board. That amendment passed because it required only a simple majority and I don't believe that the body really realized what was happening with it. So I am moving that we take that amendment back off and reinstate the fee to \$5 per death certificate. I have some information here that I would have passed out if I had known we were going to come up to this this soon, but basically the reason for the increase in the fee was to put the Department, in this particular case the Vital Statistics Program of the Department of Health on a cost break-even basis. This fee has not been increased since 1973. It was \$3 then and it was \$2 in '65. The original bill called for a \$10 fee, the \$5 fee was a compromise. At \$5 the department will break even and it will cover its cost. It does mean to us \$48,000 worth of loss of revenue if we do not take this amendment back off, take the Kilgarin-Morehead amendment back off and I would urge the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and colleagues, needless to say Senator Kilgarin and I both sit on the Appropriations Committee and were in on the adjustment of the original fee as Senator Hannibal pointed from \$10 compromising back to \$5. Many of our constituents came to us with this problem and we felt on their behalf we should offer this amendment to the body for their decision on the matter. I think Senator Hannibal has very ably presented the statistics and the problem to you and I think that now again it is up to you to decide